

OUR MISSION

The mission of GAMS Belgium is to contribute to the **abolishment of female genital mutilation** in Belgium and the rest of the world.



OUR 6 MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Prevent female genital mutilation among girls and women at risk and living in Belgium
- Prevent imminent or planned excision
- Support girls and women who have undergone FGM to reduce their health, psychological and social impact
- Train professionals and encourage networking
- Testify and advocate
- Support programmes to abandon FGM at European and international levels

GAMS BELGIUM

GAMS is an organisation of women and men with expertise in health, psycho-social support, education, training and communication.
Over the years, the association has built up a great deal of experience in prevention.



SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

- First intake of people affected by FGM
- Social care
- Psychological care
- Workshops for adults, teens and children
- Workshops for pregnant women
- Advice and training to professionals
- Cultural mediation
- Contact details of medical and legal experts
- Traineeships
- Collaborations with students on research projects (uni)
- Operational research

CONTACT US / FIND US

Do you want to help a woman or girl at risk of FGM?
Are you at risk of undergoing FGM yourself? Do you need to talk to someone?

BRUSSELS

Rue Gabrielle Petit, 6
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OPEN

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
9AM TO 5PM
OR WITH APPOINTMENT

FLANDERS

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Wijkcentrum De Shelter
Langstraat 102
2140 Antwerpen
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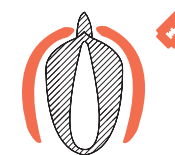


FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION /FGM

The vulva consists of two folds of skin, the labia majora (large lips) on the outside and the labia minora (small lips) on the inside. The labia minora meet at the front to form the hood that covers the clitoris. The urethral orifice and the vagina are below the clitoris. Full of nerve endings and blood vessels, this area of the body is highly sensitive and can bleed heavily if cut.



EXCISION



This means the partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora.


SINCE 2001, THERE HAS BEEN A LAW TO HELP PROTECT GIRLS FROM EXCISION
(ARTICLE 409 OF THE PENAL CODE).

INFIBULATION



The vaginal orifice is closed by glueing or suturing the labia together. The vaginal opening then becomes a very small orifice. Below the scar, the glans of the clitoris may be intact or excised.

WHO IS DIRECTLY AFFECTED ?

At least 200 million girls and women are living with FGM across 30 countries in the world (UNICEF 2016). Half of them live in Egypt, Ethiopia and Indonesia.

ALL REGIONS OF THE WORLD ARE AFFECTED



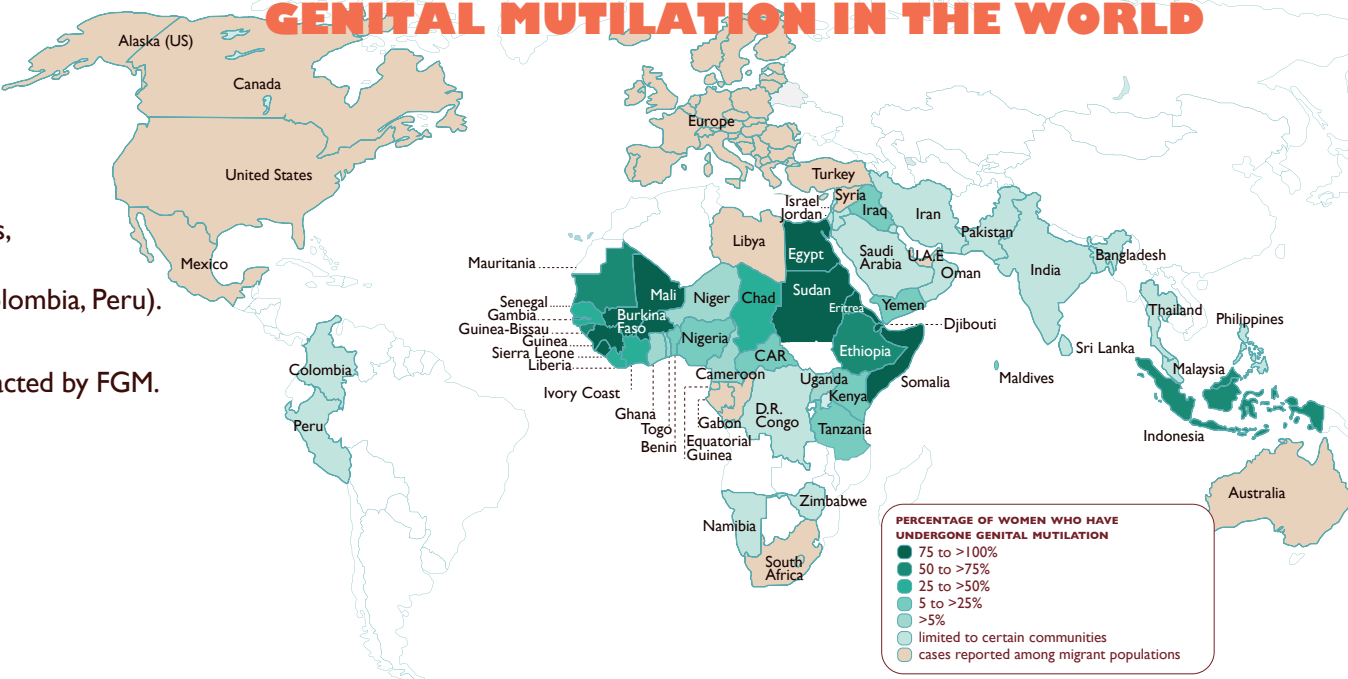
Africa, the Arabian Peninsula (Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Sultanate of Oman), the Middle East (Iraq, Israel), Asia (Indonesia, India, Malaysia) and even Latin America (Colombia, Peru). (WHO 2008)

Host countries in Europe, in Australia and in North America are also impacted by FGM.

"Human beings are inviolable. Every human being shall be entitled to respect for his/her life and the integrity of his/her person. No one may be arbitrarily deprived of this right."

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (art.4)

PREVALENCE OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN THE WORLD



MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

Female genital mutilation and forced marriage are gender-based violence. They are perpetrated for the purpose of controlling women's bodies and sexuality. This violence can have serious consequences throughout life.



Female Genital Mutilation can cause:

IN THE SHORT TERM:

- Intense pain;
- Potentially fatal hemorrhages;
- Shock, feeling of betrayal.

IN THE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM:

- Recurrent urinary tract infections;
- Genital infections sometimes leading to infertility;
- Sexual disorder;
- Sexual phobia;
- Complications during childbirth;
- Low self-esteem;
- Post-traumatic stress syndrome.